

EPISODE #123
December 1, 1994

The Valley COMIC

N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

Job Interview With The Vampire



"Says here that you're a
real 'people person'..."

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STORIES:

AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS
THE PARTY OF THE LEFT...
IS NOW THE PARTY OF THE RIGHT
I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER FOR YOU
BEYOND POLITIX

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK,
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PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



(This popular column is a repeat, as if you cared)

I was looking out at the stark, snowswept landscape recently, and I suddenly realized that I couldn't see any animals. Anywhere. Usually my rural hillside is crawling with animals — elk, bison, ferrets, you name it.... Suddenly I was concerned. I realized I had no clue how these poor, defenseless creatures prepare for the hellish ravages of Winter. All in a tizzy, I phoned the reference librarian at the New York Public Library, who is never too busy to answer sensitive questions about animals. Boy, did I learn some interesting stuff! And since I know you rural readers have a fondness for wild things that's exceeded only by your desire to get cable, I will gladly share the results of my research for free, not counting what you paid for this paper. Here goes:

How Animals Prepare For Winter:

Mice: These pesky creatures, which you are not yet permitted to shoot, begin right after Labor Day to contact their realtors, who mail them a listing of homes where people don't have backs on their cupboards.

Birds: Most birds hold tickets for Spring Training, in Florida, and wouldn't miss it. Many of them are so popular down there they have teams named after them. They leave in November to get good seats. The remainder, who are hockey fans, call Agway to make sure the seed has come in, especially the sunflowers. They *hate* that little millet and hemp stuff, and complain bitterly about people who put it out.

Squirrels: Using a compass, quadrant, and sextant, a habitat's dominant squirrel establishes a map of every bird feeder in town. It then sells this map for 100 walnuts, C.O.D.

Skunks: Skunks don't really know what to do for winter. They occasionally waddle into the highway to seek inspiration, which often strikes them in the form of a Buick.

Weasels: In the winter, weasels turn into "ermine" (rhymes with "Herman's"), which is French for "white weasels." These days no one *ever* sees ermine. That's because ancient kings and queens used to make robes out of them and made them extinct. Fortunately, no royalty would be caught dead wearing weasels, so *they're* still plentiful.

Flies: These insects were an inspiration for one of the most futuristic contraptions aboard the Starship *Enterprise*. I refer of course to the Transporter. Flies transport naturally: in November they hide underneath your shingles and clapboards, then as it gets colder, they take themselves apart, atom by atom, and reassemble themselves further inside your walls, until finally they appear dive-bombing your lamp, and you have no idea where they came from.

Rabbits: Rabbits live for the winter, because that's when they have fun. You see, a rabbit *loves* a good laugh, and nothing amuses a rabbit more than to challenge a hawk to a game of tag in the snow, and then say, "We have to play in slow motion, ha ha." These games are shown all the time on public TV. Usually the rabbit wins, and goes home to drink a mug of piping hot carrot juice. But sometimes the hawk wins, which means the hawk gets to take the rabbit back to its nest, and let all the snotty adolescent hawks insult it for being so slow.

Humans: Humans, as the most lofty animal, do two important things to prepare for winter. 1) Before the endless sequence of stressful events called "The Holidays," humans raise their credit card limit; 2) back in July or August, when most other animals are acting like winter is about as likely as a comet striking Earth, humans cleverly book reservations to Disney World.

In another column I'll reveal how animals prepare for Spring.

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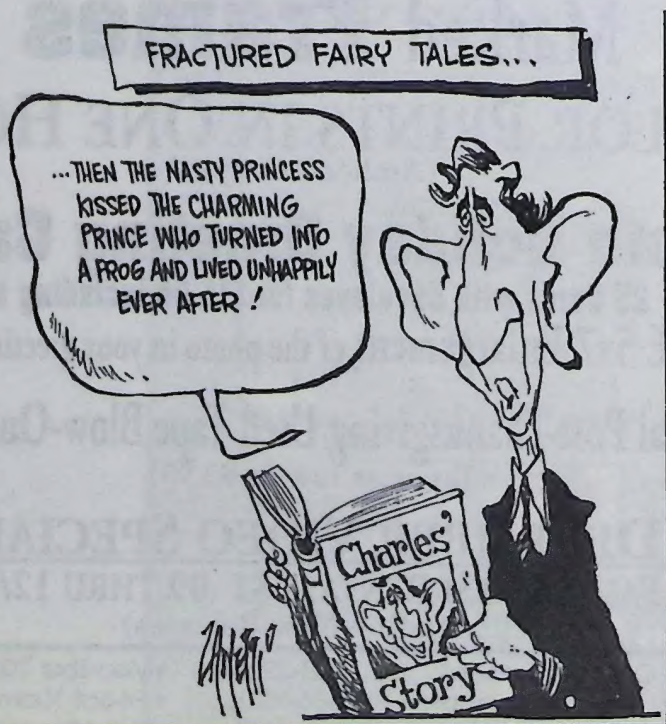
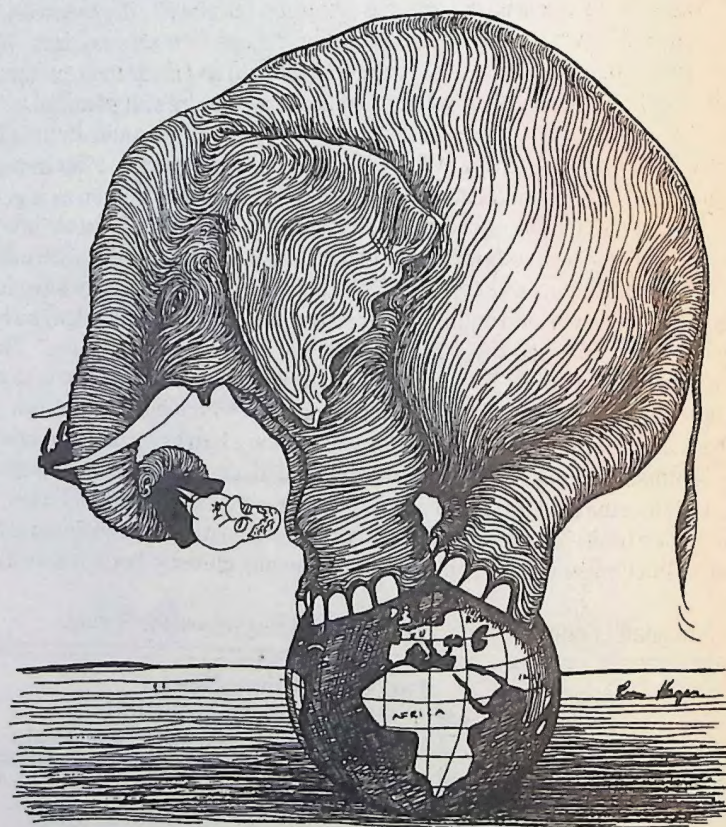
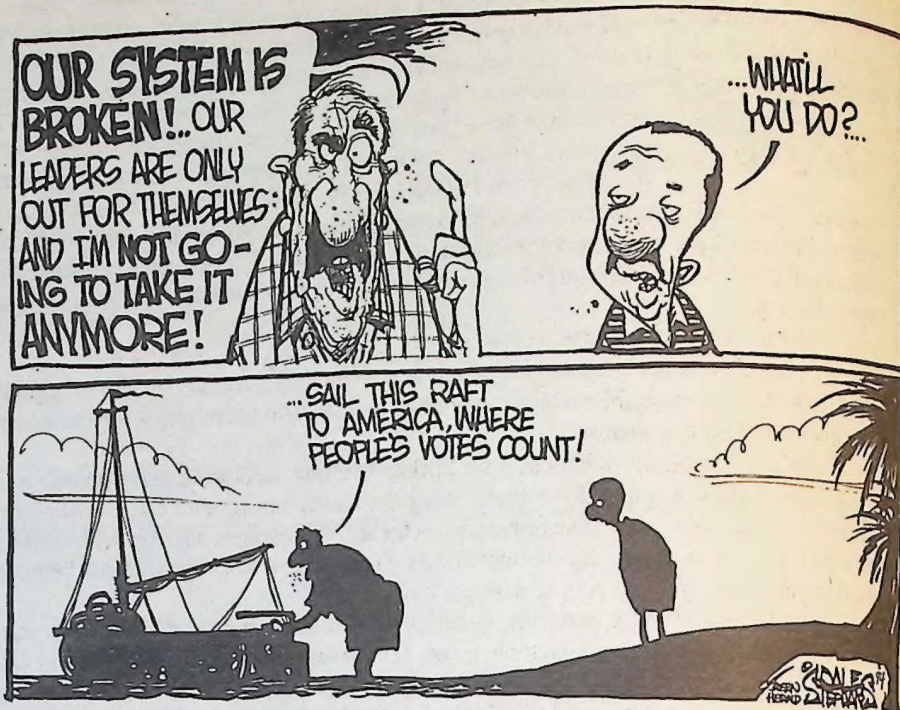
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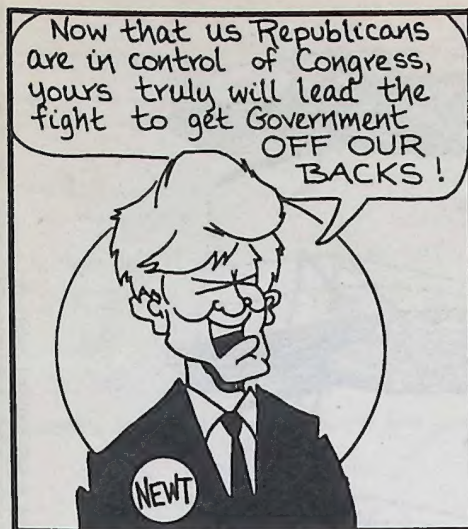
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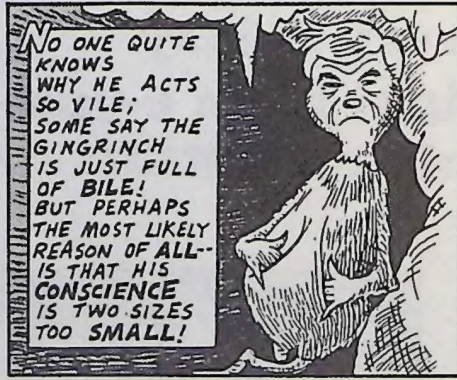
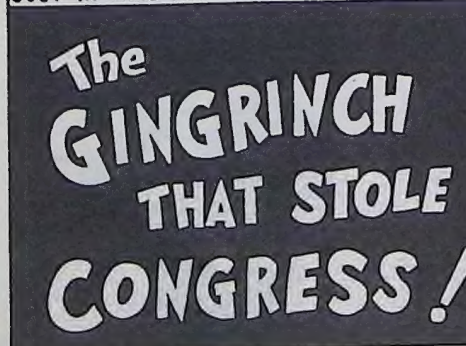
WRITING THE SCHOOL PRAYER



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THIS MODERN WORLD

JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS... IT'S--

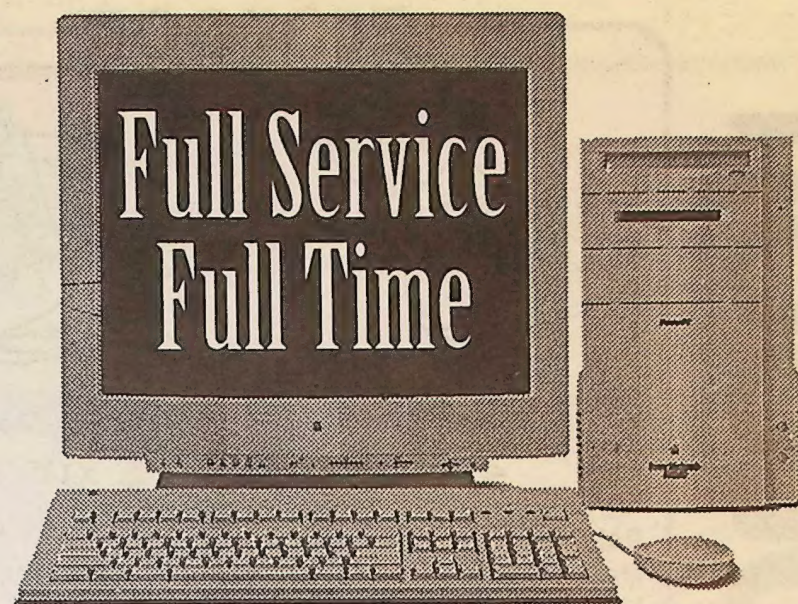


BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHY HE'S THIS WAY, FOR ANGRY HE IS AND ANGRY HE'LL STAY! THE GINGRINCH HATES EVERY DEMOCRAT UNDER THE SUN; WHY, HE HATES ANYONE MORE LIBERAL THAN ATTILA THE HUN!

NOW THE VOTERS--IN A MOOD BITTER AND SOUR, HAVE GIVEN THE GINGRINCH MUCH TOO MUCH POWER! AND OF ALL OF THE PROBLEMS FACING US THIS YULE, HIS FIRST PRIORITY--



TOM TOMORROW (WITH APOLOGIES TO THE LATE, GREAT THEODOR GEISEL) ©11-30-94



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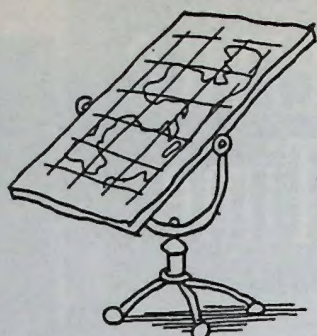
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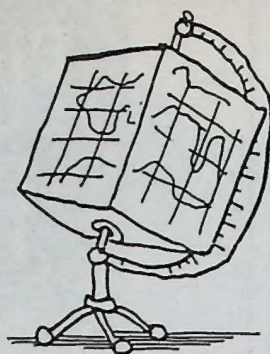
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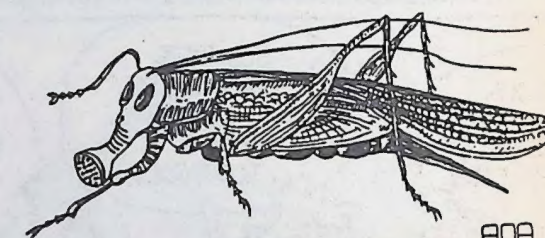
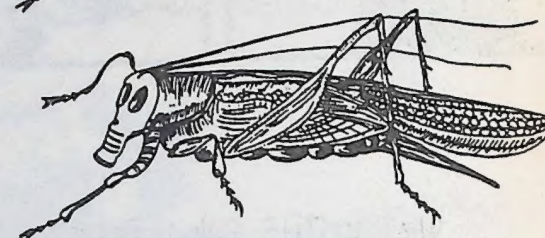
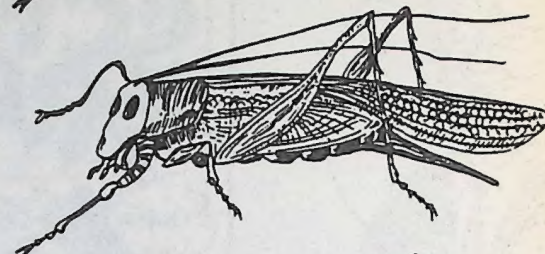


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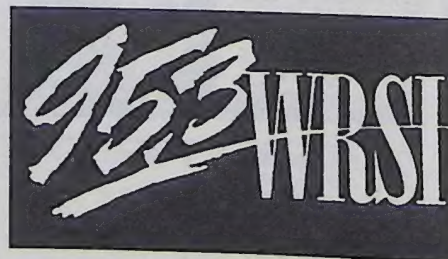
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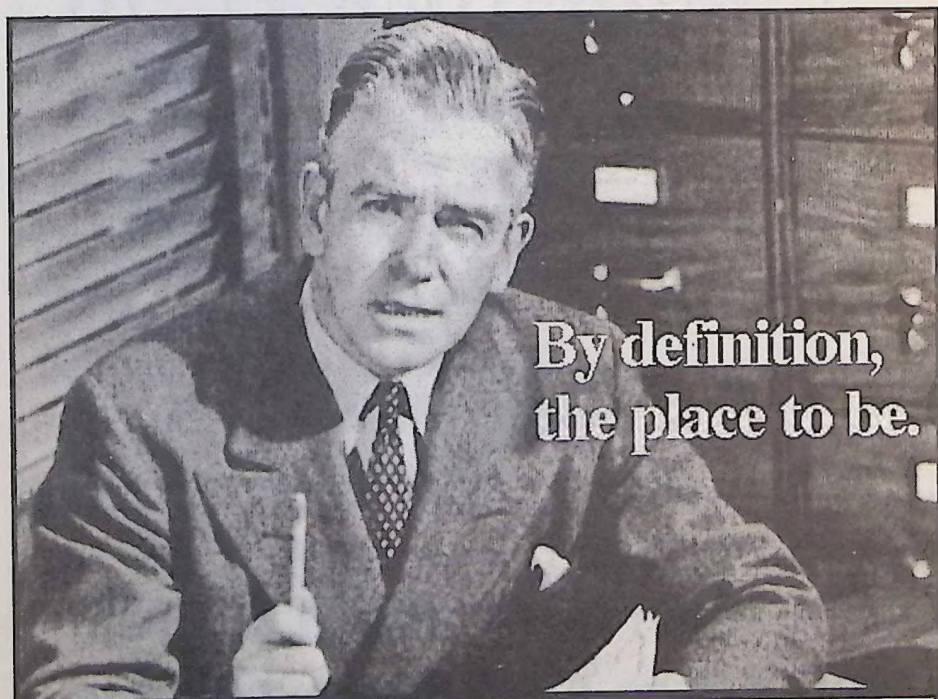
MUCH IN COMMON



Despite drawing criticism for his 5 day T.V. interview, Judge Lance Ito takes a controversial plunge into the media spotlight once again...



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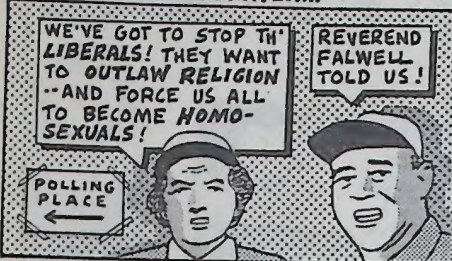
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THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

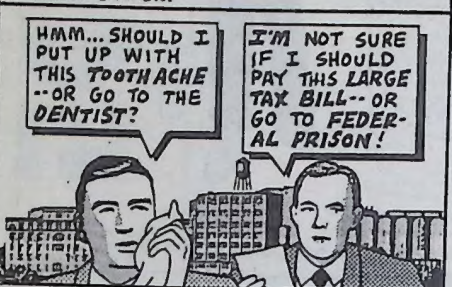
THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW 11-16-94

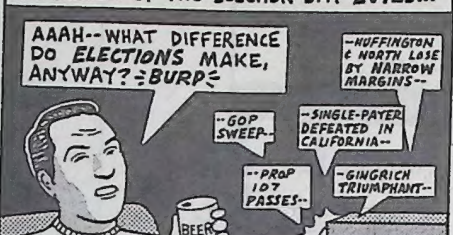
OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, FAR RIGHT EXTREMISTS HAVE WON LOCAL ELECTIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY BY ORGANIZING AROUND SUCH ISSUES AS FAMILY VALUES AND SCHOOL PRAYER...



...TO WHICH WE CAN ONLY SAY: GROW UP...IN OUR EXPERIENCE, MOST OF ADULT LIFE CONSISTS OF CHOOSING LESSER EVILS...



IT HAS BEEN EASY FOR THEM TO HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT WHEN SO MANY OTHER AMERICANS DON'T VOTE-- APPARENTLY PREFERING TO REMAIN POLITICALLY ABSTINENT THAN TO CHOOSE THE LESSER OF TWO ELECTION-DAY EVILS...



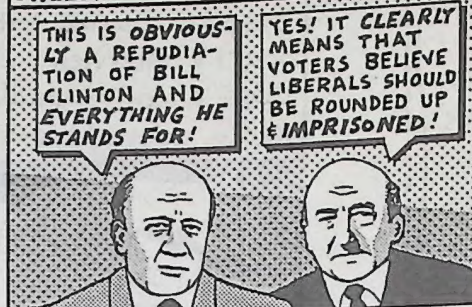
NOT THAT WE MEAN TO ENCOURAGE COMPLACENCY, OF COURSE--BUT RATHER THE OPPOSITE...THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN, AFTER ALL, IS EARNED BY VOTING...



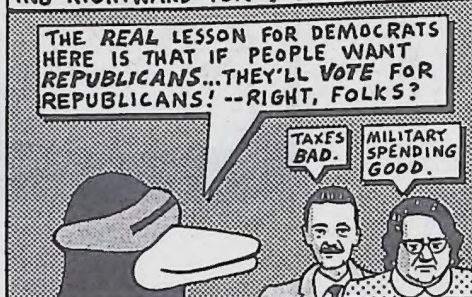
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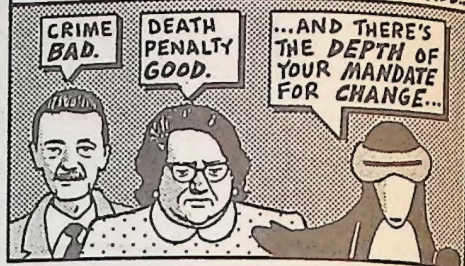
PUNDITS QUICKLY REACHED A CONSENSUS CONCERNING THE RECENT REPUBLICAN SWEEP...



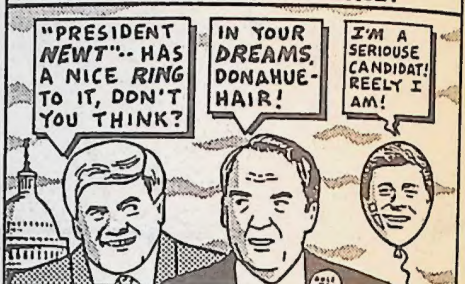
THE PUNDITS ALSO INSIST THAT DEMOCRATS MUST NOW MOVE TO THE "CENTER"... AS IF THEY HAVEN'T ALREADY BEEN MOVING RIGHTWARD FOR YEARS...



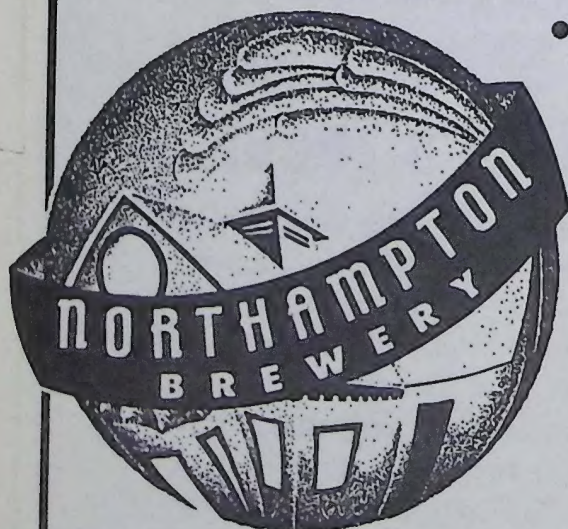
ACTUALLY, WHAT IT MEANS IS THAT MOST CITIZENS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE DON'T BOTHER-- BUT A SLIGHT MAJORITY OF THOSE WHO DO WERE SWAYED BY SIMPLE-MINDED REPUBLICAN PROPAGANDA AND ATTACK ADS.



IT'S ALL MOOT, OF COURSE...THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER...AND NOW IT'S TIME FOR THE REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP TO FOCUS ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS-- THE 1996 PRESIDENTIAL RACE!



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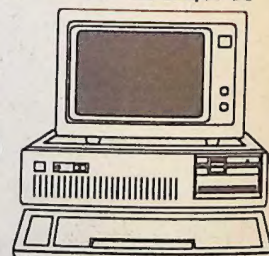
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

Ding dong, the mall is dead;
Sell your thongs
And clear your head....
Ding dong, the nasty mall is deeeeeeead.

Excuse me, but I have always hated malls. When I go into a mall, my eyes glaze over, and my brain feels like Walt Disney after they froze his head. I start staring through the window of a Payless Shoes and thinking, "Weejuns. Thom McCan. The cosmic foot doctor has arrived." It's like a drug trip for me — a *bad* one. I get home three hours later, and I've actually *purchased socks*. It's horrifying.

That's why I'm going ape over these new reports showing that malls are going bankrupt all over America. They're boardin' up the Ye Olde Corny Dog Stand, and puttin' "Gone Fishing" signs on the ceramic floors where The Gap used to be.

Because you know what people are doing now instead of scrambling their brains at the mall?

They're scrambling their brains by watching Home Shopping Network.
Or they're buying stuff out of catalogs.

Or — and this is the most *amazing* part of all — they're going to tiny little boutique-type stores that only sell *one thing*, or one *type* of thing. They're going to the exact same stores that they *deserted* twenty years ago because they weren't *big enough*. Main Streets dried up all over America because people wanted malls, and now people are buying back those little Main Street areas and saying, "Let's just antique and boutique these people to death."

So, for example, there's a store in my neighborhood that sells nothing but junk. Or at least my grandma would have called it junk. But in the nineties, if you have a store that sells metal porch chairs that were welded in the Depression, or Santa Fe benches that somebody hauled up from Mexico in the forties, then it's no longer junk. It's *five hundred bucks*, is what it is. Do you know what I mean?

It used to be that stores advertised they were part of a chain. The bigger the chain, the better the store: "Now in 700 locations nationwide!"

This doesn't cut it anymore.

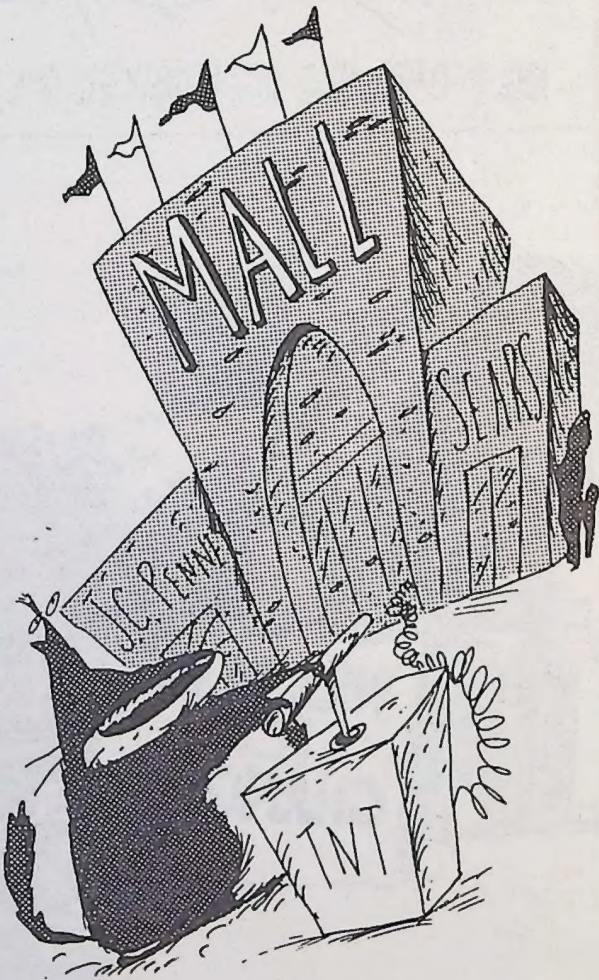
You can go to a store in my neighborhood where they *brag* about the fact that it's the only store of its kind anywhere in the world. (It's true. It's an environmentally-friendly incense-burning non-synthetic soap, clothing, and recycled waste products boutique. But, I mean, how many of those can the world *stand*?)

In other words, in the sixties, Sal's leather shop down on Main Street went out of business because the mall opened, and the mall had a 30,000-square-foot Crafts Center. In the nineties, the Crafts Center is going out of business because Sal's grandson bought the old lease and started selling one-of-a-kind leather purses, saddles, and backpacks — just like Sal was doing when he went out of business.

Do you understand this?

I don't.

I don't have to have a reason, though. The mall has malled its last. That's enough for me.



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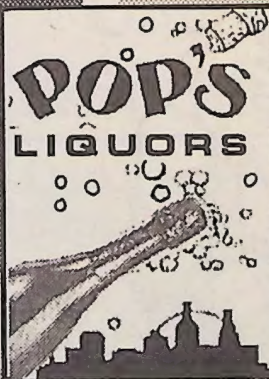


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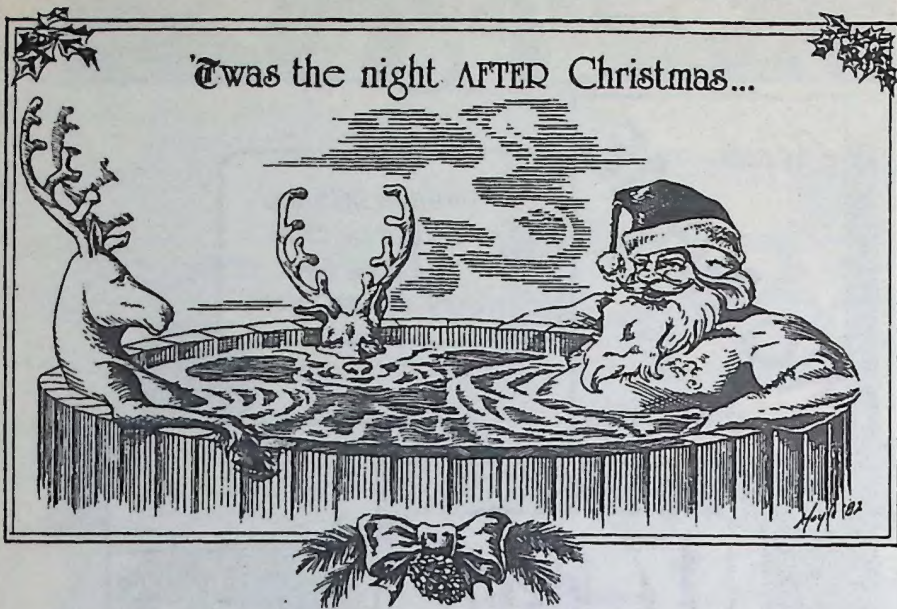
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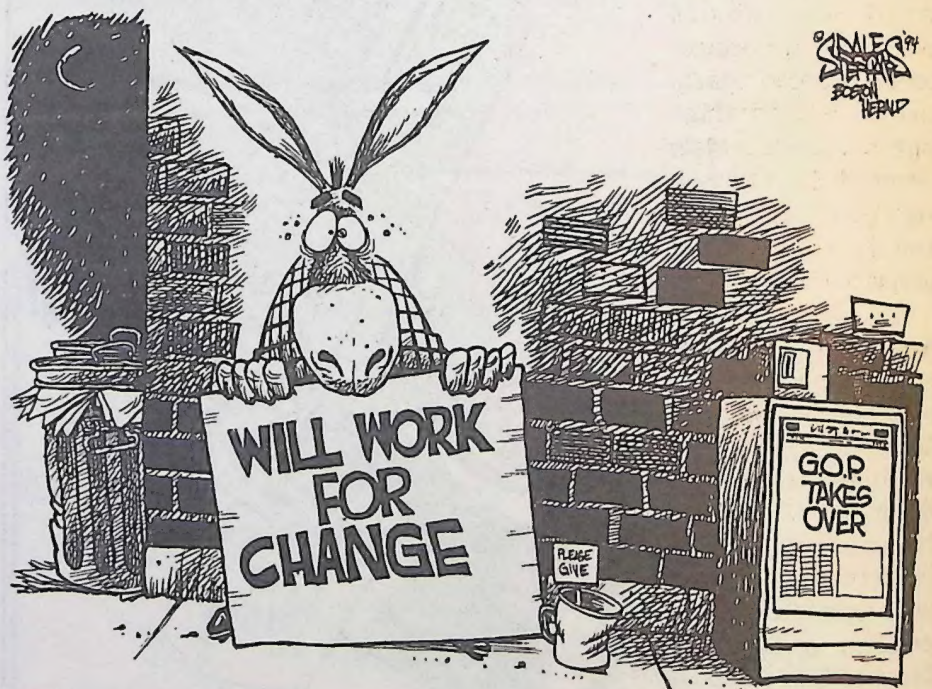
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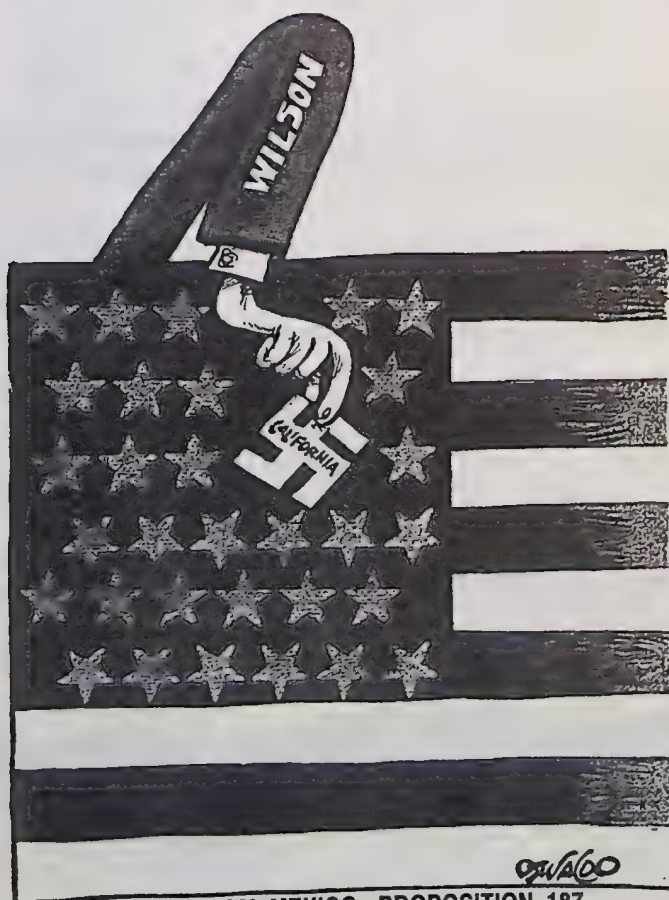
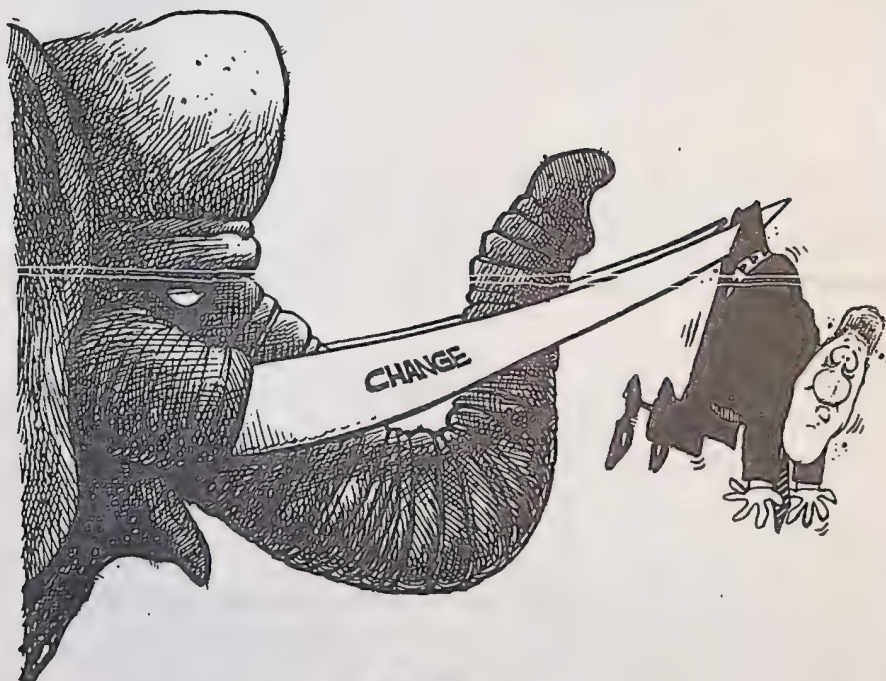


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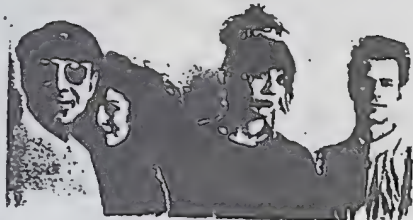
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THU
ONE

Katina's: Ladies Night dance jam **Iron Horse:** Homegrown Harvest **Hadley Pub:** blues open mic **Seven O's:** DJ dance club **Bay State Hotel:** MFA poets (8pm), Trailer Park (10pm) **Pearl Street:** The Dambuilders, Fuzzy, Darwin, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Steven (white sox night)

FRI
TWO

Pearl Street: De La Soul, Shootyz Groove, Kids From Afreak (7pm), plus downstairs @ 9pm — Soup, Jaya the Cat, Snooze Button, plus Retro night, w/ DJ Dennis **Seven O's:** Sundown **Hotel Northampton:** Chet Keefe **Iron Horse:** Betty (7pm), Extremos (10pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Miss Reed, Cardinal Woolsey, Waiting Kates **Katina's:** Top 40 dance party **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** Shuck & Stones **North Star:** 18+ dance party, w/ DJ Betsy

SAT
THREE

Katina's: Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** Slug Hog, Sons of the Corporate Dog, Shiva Speedway, Meisterfricht **Hotel Northampton:** Ellen Cogen **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ JP **Pearl Street:** dance party w/ DJ Lance **North Star:** La Folia (flute & guitar), plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven **Seven O's:** Sundown **Iron Horse:** Chuck Mangione (2 shows)

SUN
FOUR

Northampton Brewery: Flycatcher, Amanda's Dirty Secret **Seven O's:** open mic, w/ host Mark Snow **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Linee Peroncell & Co., plus Retro night w/ DJ Betsey **Iron Horse:** Dixie Dregs, featuring Steve Morse (2 shows) **Pearl Street:** Alison Krauss & Union Station, the Cox Family **Katina's:** Grave, Incantation, Fear of God, Lachrymator **Amherst College:** Dar Williams, Jim Henry

MON
FIVE

Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Katina's:** Gay Nite, plus Monday Night Funnies **Iron Horse:** Rhythm & Blues dance party **Pearl Street:** Testament, Downset, Red Square Black, Exhumed

TUE
SIX

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ host Rob Skelton **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Pearl Street:** Freedy Johnston, The Schramms **Iron Horse:** Larry McCray

WED
SEVEN

Hadley Pub: Reggae party **North Star:** C/W dance night **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Homegrown night, w/ New Horizons **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State Electric Open (no cover) **Fire & Water Cafe:** open poetry mic



A Lunachick at Pearl Street

Tobey photo



THU
EIGHT

Bay State Hotel: Eugene Chadbourne, Zeke Fiddler **Pearl Street:** Big Chief, The Goats, Dandelion, plus 18+ dance party, w/ Nick Danger **Katina's:** Ladies Night dance jam **Iron Horse:** The Hawaiian Slack Key Tour **North Star:** Boyz Nite Out, w/ DJ Steven

FRI
NINE

Bay State Hotel: Jaya The Cat, The Marshes **Hotel Northampton:** Art Steele **Seven O's:** Swift Kicks **North Star:** Dance party, w/ DJ Betsey **Pearl Street:** War, plus Retro night w/ DJ Dennis **Katina's:** Top 40 dance party **Iron Horse:** The Persuasions **UMass Mullins Center:** Indigo Girls, K's Choice

SAT
TEN

Katina's: Selectrocution **North Star:** Sue Burkhart (7:30pm), 21+ holiday lavender dinner dance w/ dj Steven (10pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Dieselmeat, Movieola, Bloom **Hotel Northampton:** Dave Brinnel **Wendell Town Hall:** Joel Zoss & Special Forces **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Seven O's:** Swift Kicks **Pearl Street:** Screamin' Cheetah Wheel, Blue Rodeo **Iron Horse:** Saffire: The Uppity Blues Women, Mary Ellen Bernard (7pm), Miracle Legion (10pm)

SUN
ELEVEN

Northampton Brewery: Go Figure **Pearl Street:** Fugees, Spearhead, Ben Harper (9pm), Leeway, Doom Nation (2pm) **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Exhibit opening —artists reception (3pm) **Iron Horse:** John Densmore (of The Doors), rare footage of The Doors, Q&A's **Seven O's:** open mic w/ Mark Snow **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Retro dance party w/ dj Betsey

MON
TWELVE

Fire & Water Cafe: open stage (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Katina's:** Gay Night, w/ DJ Steve **Iron Horse:** Rhythm & Blues Dance Party

TUE
THIRTEEN

Pearl Street: God Street Wine, yeP! **Northampton Brewery:** open mic w/ host John Allen **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Iron Horse:** Paul Kelly

WED
FOURTEEN

Iron Horse: Dude of Life **Fire & Water Cafe:** Open poetry mic (7pm) **Bay State Hotel:** Bay State electric open (no cover), hosted by Sourpuss **Pearl Street:** Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Homegrown night, w/ Tom McClung Trio **Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **North Star:** C & W dancing

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BETTY

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EXTREMOS

SAT 3

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featuring Steve Morse

MON 5

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DANCE PARTY

TUES 6

LARRY MCCRAY

THUR 8

THE HAWAIIAN
SLACK KEY TOUR

FRI 9

THE PERSUASIONS

SAT 10 7 pm

SAFFIRE: THE UPPITY
BLUES WOMEN
plus Mary Ellen Bernard

SAT 10 10 pm

MIRACLE LEGION

SUN 11

JOHN DENSMORE
OF THE DOORS

TUES 13

PAUL KELLY

THUR 15

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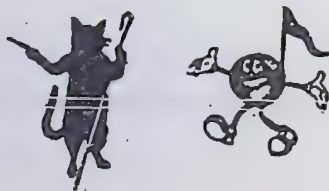
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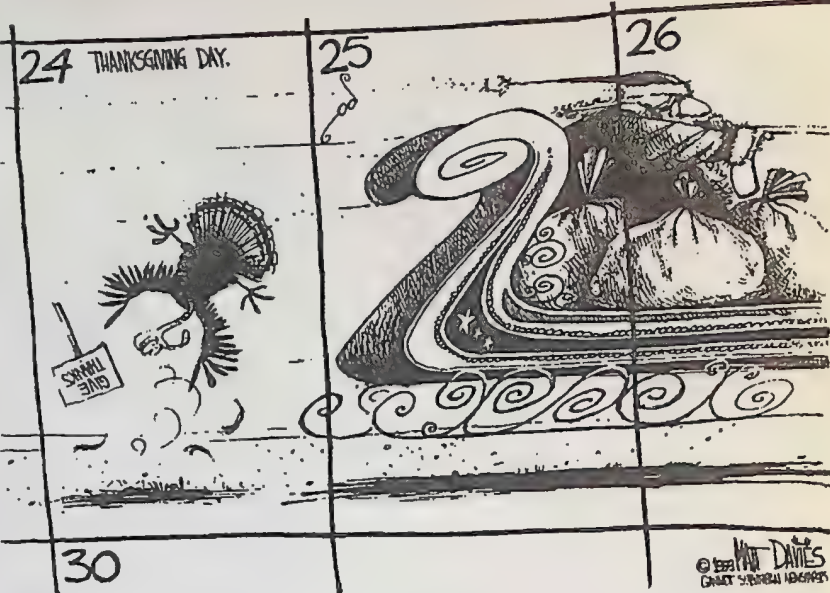
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Tropical Storms

6 An unnamed tropical cyclone from the Arabian Sea roared ashore over northeastern Somalia, killing at least 75 people and destroying more than 30 percent of the buildings in the coastal city of Boosaaso. The storm continued westward along the shore of the Gulf of Aden, then killed at least 50 more in the Red Sea port of Djibouti. The homes of 1,700 people were swept away when torrential rains lashing the republic caused the Ambuli River to burst its banks.

Damage inflicted on Florida's agriculture by tropical storm Gordon during the previous week is likely to cause fresh food prices to rise in the U.S. and Canada this winter. More than \$200 million worth of produce was wiped out by the storm.

Volcano

1 Killer heat clouds, with temperatures up to 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit, rolled down the slopes of Java's erupting Merapi Volcano, searing the bodies of 31 people. The laborers killed while working in the fields around Merapi had only a few seconds' warning of the approaching hot clouds. Of the 100 others seriously burned during the disaster, few were expected to survive.

Russia's Kliushevskoi Volcano, the largest in Asia, began a new eruptive phase on the Kamchatka Peninsula. The powerful discharge of ash and lava blanketed the nearby town of Kliuchi with a thin layer of debris.

African Frost

1 About half of Zimbabwe's wheat crop was destroyed by a severe frost and early rains, according to *The Herald* newspaper of Harare. The country's grain marketing board and farmers are trying to find ways to make the damaged wheat fit for domestic human consumption.



Earthquakes

5 Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya was rocked by a strong temblor that injured nearly 30 people and destroyed dozens of houses, office buildings, and places of worship.

Earth movements also were felt in western Sumatra, northern and central Japan, the central Philippines aftershock zone, northeast Burma, northeast Iran, northern Syria, the Solomon Islands, Maine, Utah, northern and southern parts of California, and around Lake Tahoe, on the California-Nevada border.

Rain Prayers

1 Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz called on his subjects throughout the kingdom to pray for rain because of the failure of seasonal rains to arrive. This type prayer is in keeping with the teaching of Prophet Mohammed, and is evoked when there is drought or when rains are late in coming.

Rat Plague

1 A Lima radio station reported that at least 20 people in Peru's northern Cajamarca province have been stricken with the bubonic plague, reportedly brought on by the proliferation of rats. Cajamarca is becoming overrun with rodents carrying the type of flea that spreads the disease, which was once thought to have been eradicated from the country.

Artesian Blast

1 A freak explosion by an artesian well in remote southern Ethiopia killed 22 people and left many other homeless, according to the Ethiopian News Agency. The powerful underground spring tore the ground open with a volcano-like explosion, causing massive flooding and landslides that buried inhabitants of Guba Ganchilla village, in the North Omo Zone. A large tract of farmland also was swamped by the blast.

Windless Wonder

1 Australian scientists are testing an anti-flatulence compound for livestock that could take the wind out of a proposed greenhouse-gas emission tax. Every year the nation's 24 million cattle and 150 million sheep produce over two million tons of methane, a greenhouse gas believed responsible for global warming. Canberra is considering taxing animal flatulence as part of a proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions 20 percent by the year 2005. But Chris May from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization has found a non-toxic compound, an anti-methanogen, that suppresses methane production. The compound also seems to increase weight gain in cattle that are fed a diet high in roughage.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. What's Japan's most popular participation sport?

A. Bowling. It first got there in 1952. Now, Nagoya City claims the world's largest bowling alley, with 156 lanes.

The medical historian Dr. Victor Robinson once said, "Widows are divided into two classes — the be-reaved and the relieved."

Fewer than 10 of the 2,000 varieties of fleas have anything to do with people and their pets.

One of the most widely-read sentences in French roughly translates as "Take this whisky to the blond judge who is smoking a cigar." It's their equivalent of "The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog."

Some Chinese use watermelon-seed oil.

Ancient Greeks, too, made religious ritual out of getting drunk together.

They called it "enthousiasmos," meaning "divine possession." Scientists have still not discovered the causes of humans' craving for ritual intoxication.

Q. Where'd we get the term "keeping up with the Joneses"?

A. From a comic strip by that name, which ran from 1913 to 1931.

Abraham Lincoln liked short words. Almost 200 of the 275 in his Gettysburg Address are single-syllabled.

The novelist Amelia Barr claimed, "The fate of love is that it always seems too little or too much."

A hippopotamus can run faster than you can.

The wall of an aluminum beer can is thinner than a couple of sheets of ordinary paper, but it's made to hold up under more than 90 pounds of pressure per square inch, which is close to Greg LaMond's racing bike tires.

Today 248 ships fly British flags. Forty years ago, about 5,600 did.

How would you look if your nose were half an inch longer? From the age of 30 on, a person's nose grows another half inch by age 75.

Q. Who figured out how to use mercury in thermometers?

A. The physicist Daniel Fahrenheit, although mercury wasn't what he used at age 23 in 1709 when he invented the Fahrenheit scale; alcohol was. Five years later he tried out mercury.

Under the Norman laws of old England, a man convicted of adultery paid his fine to the king, but a woman convicted of adultery paid her fine to the church.

More money worldwide is spent on drugs than on food.

Joe Dimaggio said, "A ballplayer's got to be kept hungry to become a big leaguer. That's why no boy from a rich family ever made the big leagues."

At the 24th Annual Inventor's Cup competition in Tokyo recently, the top prize went to the creator of a pair of electronic shoestrings that tie themselves.

Adolphus Edward John Pontwether Hancock is remembered by his considerably shorter signature.

Q. How much more caffeine is in an ordinary cup of coffee than in a cola drink?

A. Cola usually carries 4 milligrams per fluid ounce; coffee from 12 to 16.

Al Herrin, a handyman of Trenton, N.Y., was monitored for several months by doctors to substantiate his claim that he catnapped in chairs but never went to bed for a good night's sleep. His claim was confirmed. And when he died in 1947 at age 92, no bed was found in his living quarters.

The Swedish actor Mai Zetterling observed, "Women are on the whole more sensual than sexual; men are more sexual than sensual."

Researchers in Amsterdam are working on a \$54,000 Netherlands government grant to find out if they can replace silicon with potato starch in breast implants.

The most common injury in ground skating — roller or board or in-line wheels — is reported to be wrist fracture.

No species of animal requires sexual training.

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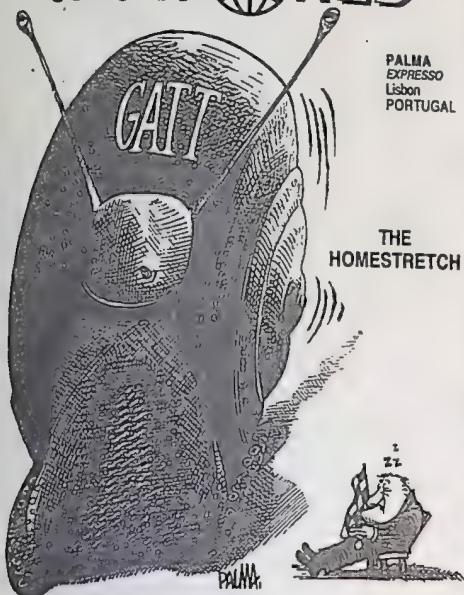
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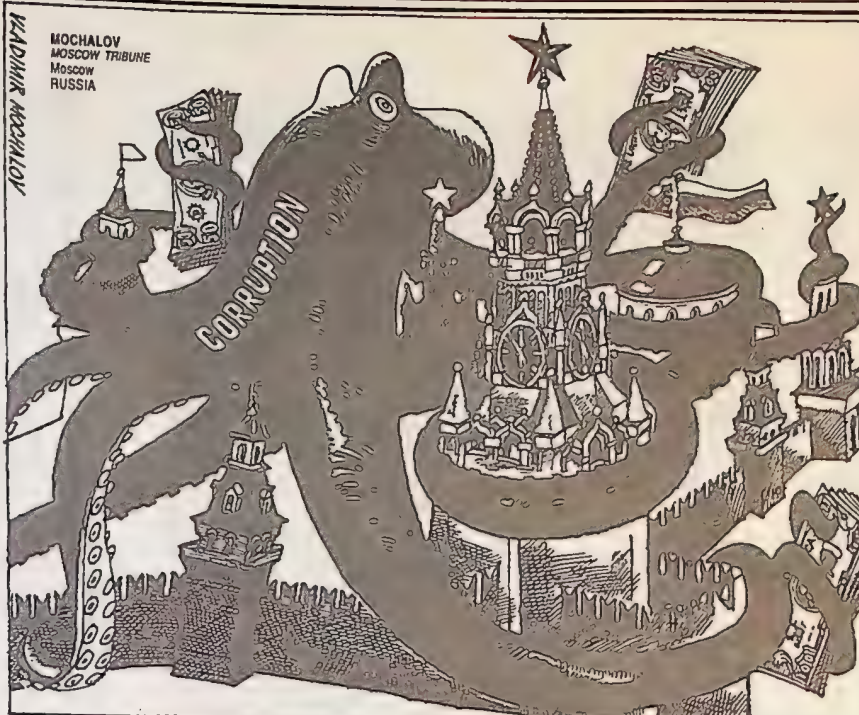

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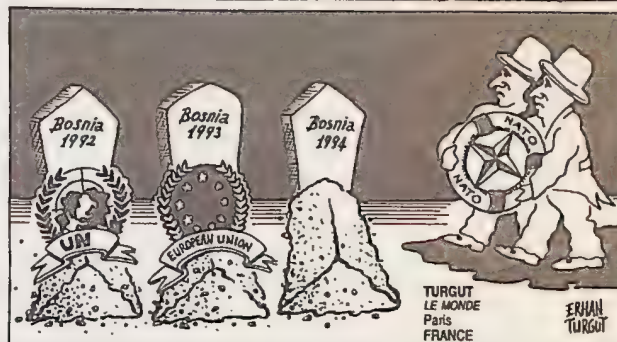
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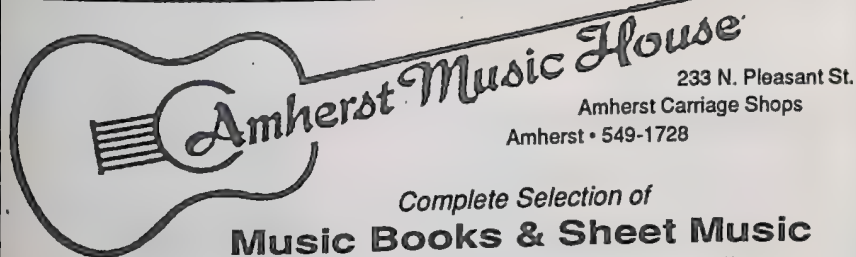
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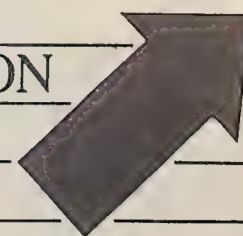
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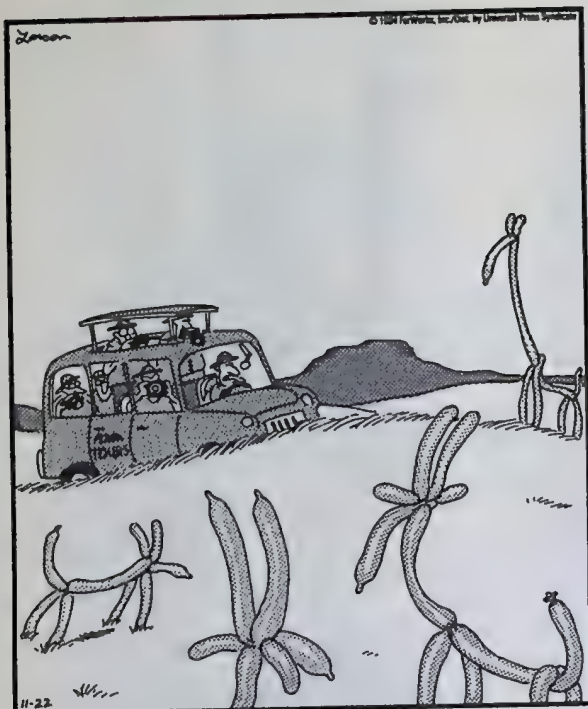


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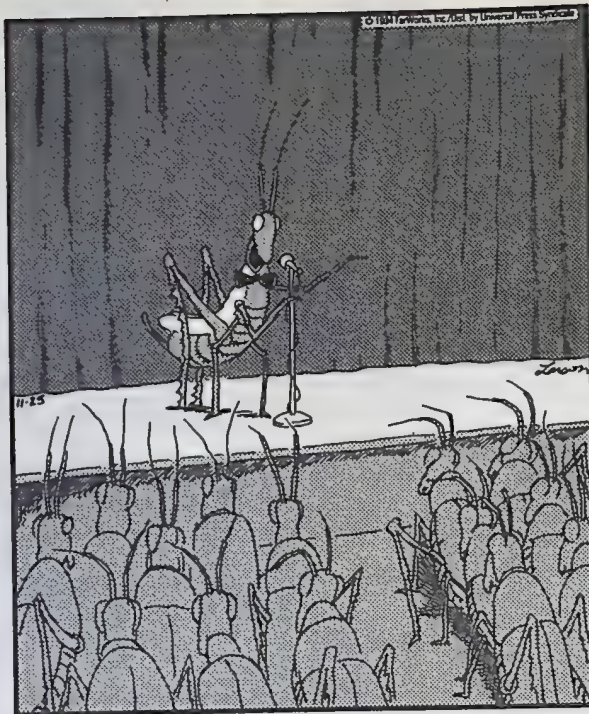
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THE FAR SIDE

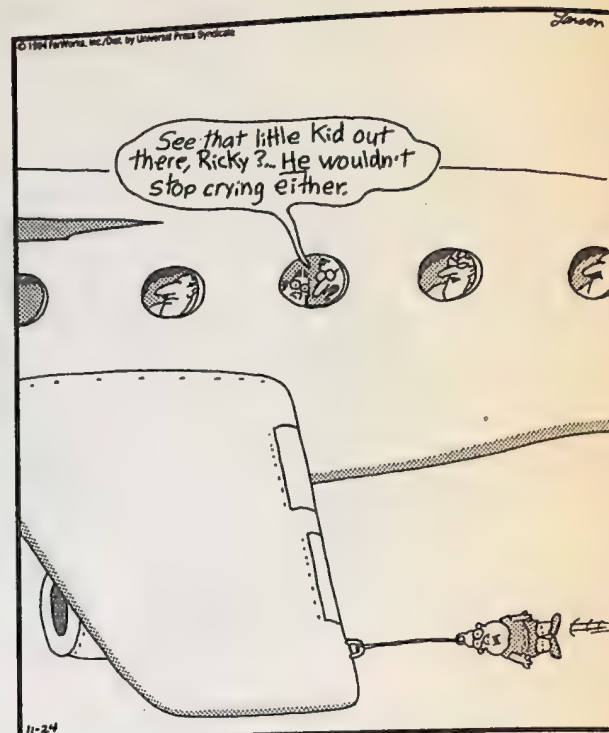
BY GARY LARSON



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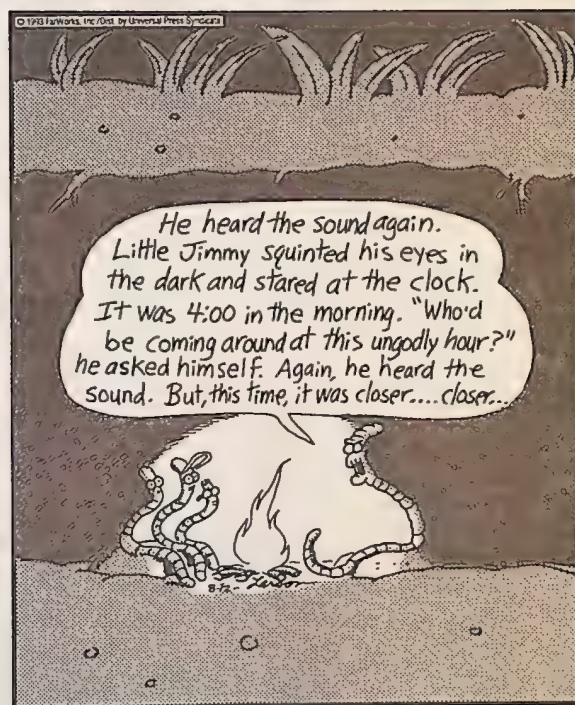
"Oh, for heaven's sake, Miss Carlisle! ... They're only cartoon animals!"



"Ha! That finishes it! ... I always knew he'd be back one day to get the other one!"



"OK, crybaby! You want the last soda? Well, let me GET IT READY FOR YOU!"



Tales of the Early Bird



"I wouldn't do that, Spunky — I have friends in pie places."



Animal horoscopes



Alien corner cafes, where sometimes dreams do come true.



Leold

by Roger&Salem Salloom

When my friend Beeber was 10 yrs. old she claimed she could hear a radio station playing music in her head.

If she turned on the real radio she would hear the very same song. For years she would hear it.

A lot of people didn't believe her.

Then, when she was 15, a tv repairman told her that her teeth braces could act like a crystal radio and actually pick up radio signal waves.

I think it's amazing.

To this day,.....
.....even though her braces are off, she told us at lunch yesterday....she can hear Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" when she sticks out her lower jaw.



calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATSON

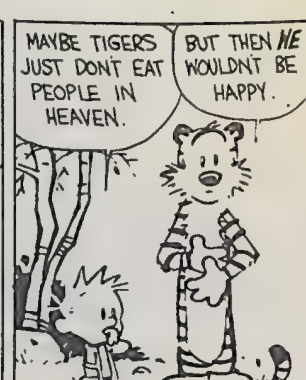
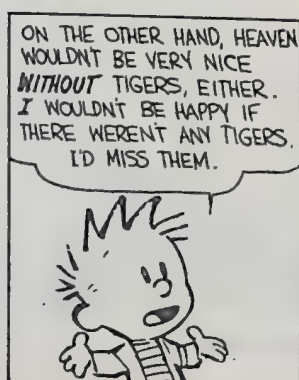
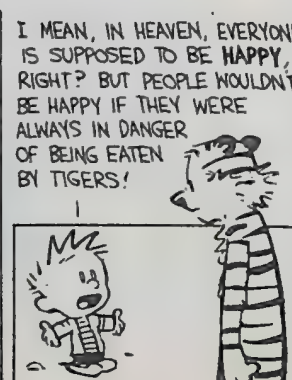
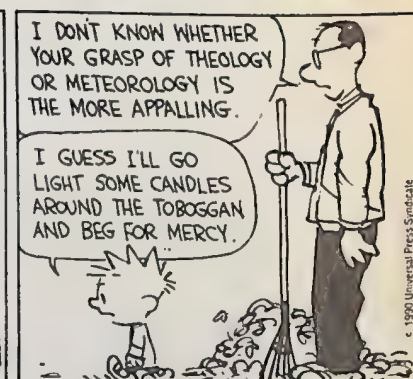
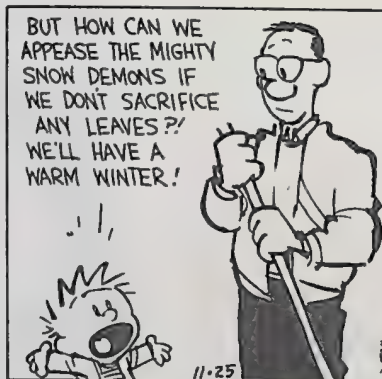
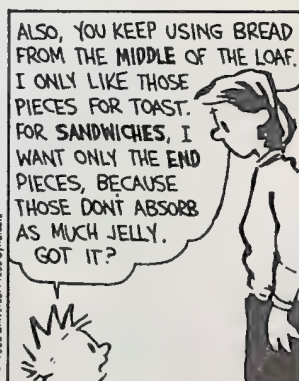
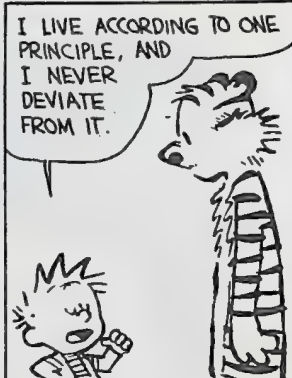




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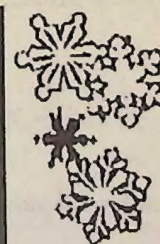
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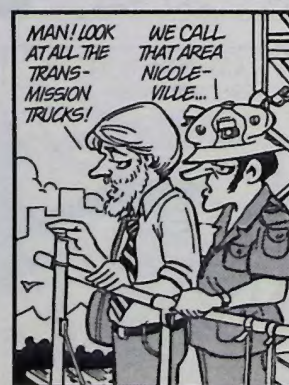
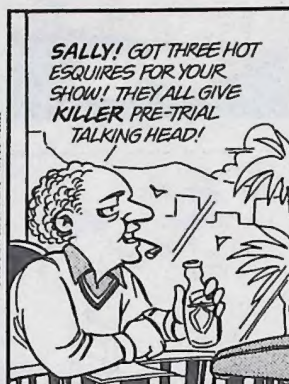
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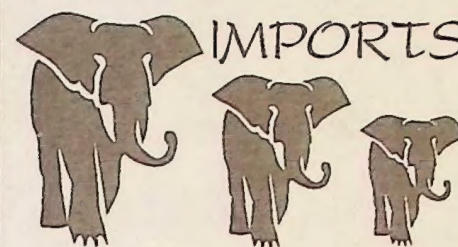
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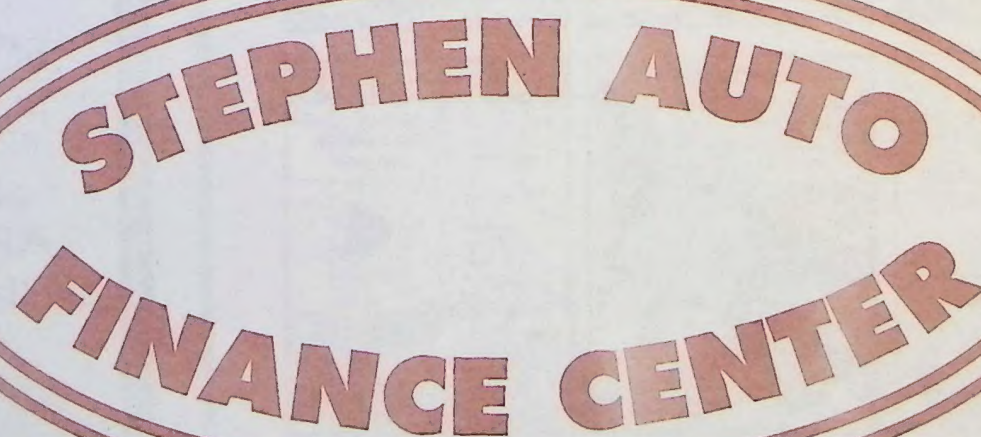
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